

**26 MAY 1998**



***Communications and Information***

**COMMUNICATIONS-COMPUTER PLANNING  
FOR EXERCISES**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

---

**NOTICE:** This publication is available digitally on the PACAF WWW site at: <http://www.hqpacaf.af.mil/publications>. If you lack access, contact your Publishing Distribution Office (PDO).

---

OPR: HQ PACAF/SCMC  
(SMSgt Brian W. Snyder)

Certified by: HQ PACAF/SCM  
(Col George W. Bowen)

Pages: 9

Distribution: F

---

This instruction implements policy found in Air Force Policy Directive 33-1, *Command, Control, Communications, and Computer (C4) Systems*. This instruction establishes the communications and information (C-I) systems planning team for major exercises and delineates functions to be performed by the group. Additionally, it sets policy for minimum exercise participation for designated units. It is applicable to numbered air forces (NAFs), air communications squadrons (ACOMS), PACAF initial communications package (PICP) equipped units, the AFFOR Regional Communications Hub (ARCH), air control squadrons (ACSS), combat communications squadrons (CBCSS), air support operations groups (ASOGs), and similar ARC units under the command/control structure Pacific Air Forces. This publication does not apply to ANG and USAFR units and members.

## **1. General:**

1.1. The scope and diversity of information, communications, and command and control networks necessary to support a major exercise, demand that these networks be planned as a single system to ensure an effective, efficient use of resources. The single system planned by the Combat Air Forces (CAF) includes all equipment necessary to interconnect the elements of the theater air control system (TACS). This single system provides command and control of forces assigned, air traffic control (ATC) for airfield operations, interface with component commanders and other participating services, and provides entry into Defense Information Infrastructure. The deployable communications system is composed of resources provided by the ground TACS, CBCSS and PACAF Initial Communications Packages (PICP) and their entry points. The deployable communications system and the fixed resources that support major exercises comprise the theater communications system. This system provides a wide range of operations, command and control, intelligence, logistics, and administrative communications to support theater air operations. Also included is the capability to provide airfield ATC equipment including Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems (ATCALS) and Navigational Aids (NAVAIDS). Viable support of combat operations mandate that theater communications sys-

tems be properly interfaced at key points in the operational structure and that planning for these systems be integrated under the supervision of a single communications and information (SC) systems planning manager.

1.2. The NAF provides the focal point for planning. In this capacity, the NAF implements HQ PACAF guidelines for units participating in an exercise and directs necessary actions to interface deployed systems with each other and with fixed communications systems. Requirements must be determined with adequate time allowed for processing through military and commercial circuit acquisition channels.

**2. Procedures.** The Chief of Communications and Information (C-I) Systems of the NAF (NAF/SC) or Air Communications Squadron Commander (ACOMS/CC) identified to support a major exercise is the senior AF deployable Communications-Information systems exercise planner. For the purposes of this document NAF/SC will be used to represent the senior communications planner for the Numbered Air Force. The NAF/SC designates a lead C-I planner and a C-I systems planning team for each major exercise. The C-I planning team is composed of representatives from HQ PACAF, NAF OPR for Theater Battle Management, and CBCSs. These project officers/NCOs, plus ad hoc experts and/or any other personnel the lead planner specifies, comprise the C-I systems planning team. All agencies must ensure that fully qualified personnel are assigned to the planning team.

2.1. The planning team is convened at a time and location specified by the lead planner. The initial session is held at the earliest practical date after receipt of outline plans or other data sufficient for the planning team use.

2.2. Periodic meetings are convened as necessary to ensure that all planning actions are completed on a timely basis.

### **3. Tasks and Responsibilities:**

#### **3.1. HQ PACAF/SCMC will:**

3.1.1. Produce an annual exercise schedule indicating tentative unit participation for the next fiscal year.

3.1.2. Maintain final approval/tasking authority on all deployable communications assets selected for exercise participation.

3.1.3. When necessary, and with proper coordination with the ARC community, re-designate combat communications unit participation for exercises, i.e. 242 CBCS instead of 293 CBCS.

3.1.4. Coordinate prioritization with HQ USAF for JCS exercises to resolve conflicting tasking of critical deployable communications resources.

3.1.5. Determine participating deployable C-I units for all exercises. Once the units are determined, the responsible NAF is authorized to coordinate directly with them.

3.1.6. Coordinate approval/tasking of any TACS units selected for exercise participation with the appropriate OPR.

3.1.7. When necessary, coordinate re-designation of TACS unit participation for exercises.

#### **3.2. NAF/SC and the OPR for Theater Battle Management will:**

- 3.2.1. Review available planning information and assess the communications support capability.
- 3.2.2. Develop the command and control systems communications support concepts and systems for the operational requirements.
- 3.2.3. Provide restoral priorities (for systems and circuits).
- 3.2.4. Provide activation priorities (for systems and circuits).
- 3.2.5. Define/assign responsibilities for participating units.
  - 3.2.5.1. Determine command and reporting relationships between subordinate communications units.
  - 3.2.5.2. Define lead unit's responsibilities to augmenting units.
  - 3.2.5.3. Define responsibilities of communications management elements, if required.
- 3.2.6. Develop and publish planning and execution C-I objectives for each exercise.
- 3.2.7. Perform planning functions and ensure a site survey is performed and appropriate agencies accompany them to site survey, when necessary.
- 3.2.8. In direct coordination with participating units, determine equipment compatibility, interfaces, modes of operation, and other related technical details.
- 3.2.9. Develop, with participating unit support, frequency requirements, channelization summary sheets, and circuit layout records and review this data to ensure adequate systems interface.
  - 3.2.9.1. Validate frequency requests.
  - 3.2.9.2. Consolidate frequency requests and submit to servicing headquarters in the required lead-time.
- 3.2.10. Develop a milestone chart at the initial planning conference (see sample, [Attachment 1](#)) and submit to HQ PACAF/SCMC.
- 3.2.11. Develop, prior to the final planning conference, a draft annex K to be distributed to all participating units including HQ PACAF/SCMC (NLT 30 days prior to the exercise). If no OPLAN/EXPLAN is written for exercise substitute Communications Plan (COMPLAN) for annex K.
- 3.2.12. Advise higher headquarters of problems requiring assistance. Provide HQ PACAF/SCMC with status of milestones that have not been met, including reasons for delay and any additional requirements necessary for completion. Recommend changes, if deemed necessary, to exercise concepts.
- 3.2.13. If appropriate, brief the operational planning staff on support communications capabilities, limitations, and/or recommended changes to exercise concepts.
- 3.2.14. Publish official minutes of the planning team meetings with milestones attached. Distribution will be made to all participating units and HQ PACAF/SCMC.
- 3.2.15. Brief HQ PACAF/SCM at least 30 days prior to a major exercise on the communications systems employment plan for the exercise. The lead C-I exercise planner normally performs briefing. Briefings may be completed by Video Teleconference or similar activity.

- 3.2.16. Brief HQ PACAF/SCM at least 45 days after a major exercise.(See [Attachment 2](#)) Forward problems affecting near-term planning or employment to HQ PACAF/SCM for action 30 days after the end of the exercise. The lead C-I exercise planner normally performs briefing.
- 3.2.17. Provide a management element (SYSCON) at the AFFOR location per JCSM 6231.01.
- 3.2.18. Develop, with participating unit support, COMSEC requirements.
  - 3.2.18.1. Validate COMSEC requirements.
  - 3.2.18.2. Consolidate COMSEC requirements and submit to JTF/J6 or lead planning organization at least 45 days before the start of the exercise.
- 3.2.19. Send any ARCH access requests to 15CS/SCMG 60 days prior to the required service dates. Informational addresses on all message traffic must include HQ PACAF/SCMC, and RSSC PAC on all message traffic. HQ PACAF/SCMC is the approval authority for all ARCH access.
- 3.2.20. Submit any satellite requests to the Regional Satellite Systems Center 120 days prior to exercise start.
- 3.2.21. Coordinate with the appropriate OPR to provide travel and per diem fund cites for all deploying personnel. JCS exercise fund cites are held and disbursed by HQ PACAF/DOXE.
- 3.2.22. Provide fund cite and shipping instructions for all equipment identified for deployment.
- 3.2.23. Develop the Air Force communications portion of the Time Phase Force Deployment List and Deployed Manning Requirements Document.
- 3.2.24. Coordinate call signs through proper authorities.
- 3.2.25. Ensure Information Management, Postal, and Reprographic support is provided at the appropriate level.
- 3.2.26. Ensure Audio-Visual, Combat Camera support is provided at the appropriate level.
- 3.2.27. Submit Communications Readiness Checklist NLT ten days after ENDEX (see section 5).

### **3.3. Other participating communications units will:**

- 3.3.1. For each deployed location, provide a CFP. Where multiple C-I units co-locate, the NAF/SC will designate the lead C-I commander. The lead C-I/CC will consolidate all deployed units into a provisional communications activity. The C-I/CC for each location will lead the CFP.
- 3.3.2. Provide a list of recommended equipment (determined by the customer's requirements) to the lead NAF/SC.
- 3.3.3. Determine equipment compatibility, interfaces, modes of operation, and other related technical data.
- 3.3.4. Perform site surveys as necessary.
- 3.3.5. Attend all appropriate planning team meetings. Advise NAF/SC on progress and problems encountered in meeting milestones and supporting exercise objectives.
- 3.3.6. Respond to requests from lead C-I (if designated) when assistance is required to expeditiously pursue planning and execution objectives in support of an exercise.
- 3.3.7. All issues concerning deployable ATCALS will be coordinated with HQ PACAF/DOY.

3.3.8. Submit Communications Readiness Checklist NLT ten days after ENDEX (see section 5).

**4. Healthy Thunder Exercise Participation.** As a minimum the ACOMS, CBCSSs, PICPs, and the ARCH will participate twice annually in a Healthy Thunder communications exercise (COMEX). HQ PACAF/SCMC will designate units for participation in the PACAF communications exercise schedule. The goal for these Health Thunder exercises are to allow communicators to set up, operate, and activate their systems in a training environment. Units are encouraged to involve personnel at different levels of training to facilitate learning and to provide hands on experience in a non-threatening environment.

4.1. Standard objective for the each exercise is participation in a hub-spoke satellite network, with data, voice, and other systems exercised as designated by lead planner per para 3.2.6..

4.2. Minimum participation must include one ACOMS, one PICP and the ARCH per exercise. Units may be exempt during a quarter if they participate in a HQ PACAF or JCS exercise that period, where the hub-spoke SATCOM architecture included an ACOMS and PICP. Units should simultaneously participate in their Healthy Thunder while participating in a JCS exercise if possible, i.e. include a link to a non-playing PICP.

4.2.1. An example of this is 7 AF participating in Ulchi Focus Lens and including a PICP stood up at home station in the UFL network. This would count for their Healthy Thunder requirement.

**5. Communications Readiness Criteria.** Communications Readiness Criteria (CRC) is addressed in PACAFI 33-150 Volume XV. Units will use the CRC Checklist(s) to report their ability to complete checklist items when participating in all Healthy Thunder, HQ PACAF, and JCS sponsored exercises. Completed checklist will be forwarded electronically NLT ten working days after ENDEX to HQ PACAF/SCMC. The completion of checklist items will be maintained in a database to analyze trends in readiness and training for all PACAF C-I units.

**6. Coordination.** Participating units are authorized direct coordination. HQ PACAF/SCMC will be an information addressee on all record communications between the NAF/SC and the NAF OPR for Theater Battle Management and participating units.

6.1. NAF/SC will be addressed on all correspondence involving taskings of equipment/manpower for action/resolution.

BERNARD K. SKOCH, Colonel, USAF  
Director, Communications and Information

## Attachment 1

## SAMPLE MILESTONES

Table A1.1. Sample Milestones.

STEP	DAYS OUT	PRIMARY ACTION
1	730-365	Identify participating Primary units
2	240-105	<b>Initial Planning Conference -- Begin JOPES input- Identify Force list</b>
3	240-105	Identify user Communications/Air Picture/RADAR/ATC/TBMCS/ requirements and identify beddown locations
4	180-120	Perform site surveys
5	180-105	Identify equipment requirements
6	180-075	Write DRAFT exercise operations and exercise support plan/annexes. (Done in conjunction with Site Survey and prior to Middle Planning Conference) If no OPS OPLAN written begin COMPLAN
7	180-060	<b>Middle planning conference</b>
8	180-090	Refine DRAFT exercise operations and exercise support plan/annexes. and write Draft Communications Engineering package prior to Final Planning Conference)
9	180-075	Submit Deployed Manning Requirement Document, TPFDD, & JOPES updates
10	180-075	Submit call sign requirements
11	180-105	Submit Airlift requirements -- JOPES update
12	180-060	Submit Frequency requirements
13	150-045	Submit COMSEC callout message
14	145-120	Submit Satellite requests to RSSC PAC. Submit RFSs to HQ PACAF/SCMTT
15	145-130	Submit RFSs (Request DISA Control numbers from DISA PAC)
16	090-030	<b>Final planning conference -- JOPES fine tuned and finalized</b>

STEP	DAYS OUT	PRIMARY ACTION
17	090-030	Identify personnel deploying and shortfalls that require sourcing
18	090-040	Comm Systems Technical Control and Engineering planning conference
19	075-030	Publish Exercise Operations plan, including Annex K and Tactical Engineering package. Distribute plan to Communications Unit Players
20	060	Submit ARCH access requirements to HQPACAF/15 CS
21	045-030	Brief HQ PACAF/SC

**Attachment 2****SAMPLE OUTLINES****A2.1. PRE-EXERCISE BRIEF (Provide HQ PACAF/SC staff three legible copies and electronic copy)**

**A2.1.1. BRIEFING OVERVIEW** (Please include Information Management, Postal, and Visual Information as well as communications support during briefing)

**A2.2. BASIC OPERATIONS:** (To include)

A2.2.1. Concept of operations

A2.2.2. Forces

A2.2.3. Operational Purpose/Objectives/Summary

**A2.3. KEY DEPLOYED LOCATIONS OF MAJOR PARTICIPANTS** (Joint and Air Force)**A2.4. KEY PERSONNEL****A2.5. MANNING****A2.6. MAJOR USAF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT:**

A2.6.1. Map Indicating Unit/Location

**A2.7. SCHEDULED EVENTS.** (key dates)**A2.8. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS**

A2.8.1. SATCOM (UHF/SHF/EHF)

A2.8.2. Terrestrial -- JTAO

A2.8.3. HF/UHF/VHF/SINCGARS

A2.8.4. Message Switching

A2.8.5. Voice Switching

A2.8.6. Data Networks

A2.8.7. CTAPS

A2.8.8. Others

**A2.9. POST EXERCISE BRIEF:** (Provide HQ PACAF/SCMC staff with three legible copies and electronic copy)

**A2.9.1. OVERVIEW** (Please include Information Management, Postal, Repro, and Visual Information as well as communications support during briefing)

**A2.9.2. SHORT SCENARIO** (Include map of area)



**A2.9.3. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS EVENTS BY DATE AND TIME**

**A2.9.4. BRIEF SYSTEMS EMPLOYED AND KEY LOCATIONS**

**A2.9.5. KEY PARTICIPANTS BY LOCATIONS/UNITS**

**A2.9.6. CRC PERCENTAGE**

**A2.9.7. AFTER-ACTION ITEMS**

A2.9.7.1. Overall Results

A2.9.7.2. Testing results of new equipment/systems employed

**A2.9.8. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS EVENTS WHICH WENT WELL**

**A2.9.9. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS EVENTS WHICH DID NOT PER FORM WELL**